

The following claims are presented for examination:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient,~~ comprising:

receiving **[[said]] an** email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender from a presence server, wherein **[[said]] the** presence status indicates a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender across plurality of domains; **[[and]]**

delivering **[[said]] the** email message to **[[said]] a** recipient with an indication of a presence of **[[said]] the** sender on one or more of **[[said]] the plurality of** domains; **and**

wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server translates **[[said]] the** presence information to a standard format.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server determines **[[said]] the** presence status of **[[said]] the** sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient responds to **[[said]] the** sender in another domain.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** presence information is obtained from a user registration process.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** presence information is obtained by observing activities of a user.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender in real time.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender in non-real time.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender using a non-textual form of communication.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** plurality of domains is a plurality of client domains.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein **[[said]] the** plurality of domains is a plurality of server domains.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient,~~ comprising:

receiving **[[said]] an** email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender across a plurality of domains;

delivering the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the domains and
automatically initiating a communication with a device at which the sender is believed to be present, wherein the initiated communication is not an email communication.

~~**providing a mechanism with said delivered email for said recipient to automatically respond to [[said]] sender at a device associated with at least one of said plurality of domains where said sender is believed to be present.**~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein **[[said]] the** providing step allows **[[said]] the** recipient to respond to **[[said]] the** sender in another domain.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender in real time.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender in non-real time.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender using a non-textual form of communication.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient,~~ comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:

receive **[[said]] an** email message from a sender;

obtain a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender from a presence server, wherein **[[said]] the** presence status indicates a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender across a plurality of domains; **[[and]]**

deliver **[[said]] the** email message to **[[said]] a** recipient with an indication of a presence of **[[said]] the** sender on one or more of **[[said]] the** plurality of domains; **and**
wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server translates **[[said]] the** presence information to a standard format.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server determines **[[said]] the** presence status of **[[said]] the** sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient responds to **[[said]] the** sender in another domain.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender using a non-textual form of communication.